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think that if we should adopt a similar course, we should meet with great animadversion. A comparison of the ancient literature can only be useful after the student is thoroughly acquainted with Modern German. In Germany, the student of the University may be expected to have mastered in a great degree Modern German before he enters the university, while in our country the student of the university and college has to acquire this knowledge. It is therefore more incumbent upon us to see that, before the older dialects are laid before him, he is fully up in a knowledge of Modern German.

PROFESSOR HENRY R. LANG (New Bedford) next followed with a communication on

3. *The Face in the Spanish Metaphor and Proverb.**

Discussion. DR. HENRY A. TODD (Johns Hopkins University): As the hour is late, I shall say only a word, but it seems hardly fitting to allow this paper to pass without some discussion. It comes from one who has gained authority by long experience and by the publication of many results in this special line of research. It illustrates the fact that a subject pursued in a scientific manner will also present attractions as a matter of entertainment. There are advantages in the special consideration of a subject of this kind in that we have the idioms of the language brought into comparison with similar idioms in the language itself and in other languages outside. It has a wide bearing on the subject of folk-lore in general. For example, 'To go with the face uncovered,' we find an evident indication of the Moorish influence in Spain. So, in a thousand ways these studies throw light upon the subject of folk-lore. I should have been glad to suggest other lines of thought, but I shall detain the Association no longer at this time.

At this point, the Convention adjourned to partake of the bountiful and delightful luncheon provided by the Local Committee in the Halls of the University building. A fine opportunity was thus offered, without loss of time, to renew the social intercourse of the previous evening and to make further acquaintance with the newly arrived members and with the visitors in attendance on the Convention.

The Third Session was called to order at 2.30 P. M., PROFESSOR GARNETT in the chair, when a paper was presented by PROFESSOR SYLVESTER PRIMER (College of Charleston) on

4. *Charleston's Provincialisms.**

Discussion. PROFESSOR EDWARD S. JOYNES (South Carolina College): I am sorry, Mr. President, that I can contribute so little to this discussion. I am from South Carolina and Charleston is in South Carolina, but the language of Charleston is not the language of South Carolina. The provincialisms are as strange to us in Columbia as they would be to Philadelphia and almost anywhere else in the country.

*Cf. TRANSACTIONS in present volume for the full papers.

I say that the provincialisms belong to the dialect of the Charlestonese. In some of the examples cited in this paper, I think that the pronunciation attributed to the Charlestonese is the correct and general pronunciation of our country and is simply not the provincialism of New England. I may instance the word *d-e-m-a-n-d*, it is not a provincialism to pronounce that *demand*.

The striking peculiarity of the provincialisms referred to, is that they are extremely limited in geographical area, and, as I have said, they are as strange to us in Columbia as they would be in Philadelphia or in New England. They are found only in the city of Charleston and in the exceedingly narrow limit of "low country" immediately surrounding the city. In our South Carolina University at Columbia, we mark a Charleston student by his pronunciation the first day of his arrival, just as we would mark one from Massachusetts or any other part of the country. This peculiarity is known to us as Charlestonese. Another peculiarity which is more marked here than any where else, and I doubt if it exists any where else, is that these are not confined to the uneducated, but reach up to the highest ranks of society. As PROFESSOR PRIMER has indicated, there is in Charleston a culture which has come down propagated through generations and it is precisely in these old families, in the proudest families of Charleston, that you hear, in the most striking manner, these provincialisms. I suppose that in most parts of the country, provincialisms are confined to the vulgar and uneducated. This is not so in Charleston. They are, however, exceedingly pleasant to listen to and with the help of a little mimicry and only a little exaggeration, they can be made intensely amusing and thoroughly characteristic.

I hope that PROFESSOR PRIMER will pursue this subject farther, for I think that he has not even glanced at all the elements which constitute this peculiar provincialism of which we are speaking. We of course know that provincialisms of this sort are necessary and important from a historical point of view. PROFESSOR PRIMER's remarks have been limited mainly to English sources and English influences. There is another element not the least important and which is a peculiarity of Charleston, that is the French influence. It is to be remembered that Charleston is a Huguenot settlement and that the French influence was, for generations, the prevailing and controlling influence. The majority of the old families of Charleston have French names, French blood and the accent of their French ancestry is still lingering in the provincialisms which have been here indicated. I feel sure that investigation continued in this direction would be equally fruitful.

There is another influence to be considered which is felt to a degree experienced nowhere else in the South, that is the influence of the negro dialect. I feel satisfied that in the low country of South Carolina, so largely peopled by the colored race, there has been a marked reflex influence from the lowest strata of society upwards.—There is another point which I shall mention if PROFESSOR PRIMER

will promise not to tell. It is said that we claim the virtues that we do not possess, and are quite silent in regard to those that we do possess. Charleston is very proud of her climate, yet I am satisfied that many of the provincialisms of Charleston are due to the moist, warm, I may say tepid climate, a climate that makes rest of all kinds, including rest of the vocal organs, pleasant. PROFESSOR PRIMER has correctly analysed many of these peculiarities by the law of the least effort which we know to be the prevailing law in pronunciation everywhere. I believe that the element of the Charleston climate is one of the predisposing causes to that laxity of effort in connection with the vowel sounds.

I hope that PROFESSOR LANG, who has lived in Charleston for some time will contribute something in the discussion of this paper.—I shall close with only one word. It seems to me that such discussions and such papers are peculiarly the province of this Association to gather up and preserve. These vanishing sounds, these provincialisms all over our country are everywhere significant, and in many instances, indeed in all, if we could discover the hidden causes, profoundly instructive, carrying us back to the historical sources of language. As I have said, it seems to me peculiarly the province of this Association to collect such matters and preserve them as records, if nothing more, in order that future philologists may reduce them to historical analogies. We have in the South those who are devoting themselves to work of this kind. Among them may be mentioned PROFESSOR SMITH of Vanderbilt University, PROFESSOR HARRISON, PROFESSOR PRIMER and PROFESSOR FORTIER. It seems to me that this is valuable work and work which, if not done by the members of this Association, is not likely to be done at all. The importance of this work was touched upon by PROFESSOR PRIMER. Now, under the prevailing and pervading influence of commerce, our education is becoming all over the country more and more universal. It is also becoming more and more mechanical, more and more uniform. The tendency is for these peculiarities and characteristics which are so valuable, to be gradually wiped out and disappear before the advancing march of the universal common-school education, with its uniform measures, uniform standards and if some publishers could have their way, with uniform text-books. Under these influences, these peculiarities are vanishing.—I am pleased to have the opportunity of emphasizing the views expressed in the paper and of calling attention to the great importance of this line of work for an Association of this kind. Unless gathered up in the day in which we live, these characteristics of our common speech may in the next generation have ceased to live on the lips of men.

PROFESSOR HENRY R. LANG (Swain Free School, New Bedford): I was much pleased with PROF. PRIMER's paper. I agree with PROFESSOR JOYNES that these provincialisms are not limited to the lower classes of society but belong to all classes. It has been my good fortune to come in contact with the better classes of Charleston

society, with people who certainly consider that they belonged to the best classes and I think that they have some right to so consider themselves. It was exactly among these people that I heard such words as "koind" and "moind;" "you are so koind;" "I can not make up my moind." This peculiarity you will notice among the people of Charleston who belong to the English. It will not be found among the Huguenot descendants.—There is one peculiarity which I think PROFESSOR PRIMER omitted. That is they speak of a tear [teer] as a tare. They would call a bier, a bear.

I think that another valuable study on the Charleston language would be the idiomatic phrases. As PROFESSOR JOYNES correctly remarked, the negro element has an influence on the speech even of the best society of Charleston. This is largely due to the fact that the child learns its language from the negro nurse all through the South. It will be found that the language of the best society is the product of the cultivated speech plus the peculiarities of the negro. In Charleston, they have an expression, "He died on Pinkney's step." That means that he died like a poor laborer. They have many such expressions derived from the negro.

PROFESSOR O. B. SUPER (Dickinson College): I wish to make a remark on one point in PROFESSOR PRIMER's paper and that is with reference to the pronunciation of one word. I refer to the word chair. I live in central Pennsylvania and there are people there who call a chair, a cheer. I do not know that this peculiarity goes any farther. I know that ordinarily they do not call a bear, a beer. A beer is quite a different sort of an animal according to my observation. This peculiarity belongs to the language of the Scotch-Irish. As the members of the Association are well aware, the Irish dialect has preserved some of its archaic elements, so that at the present time by following the pronunciation of the Irishman we could get the pronunciation of the English two or three centuries ago. The pronunciation of this word is undoubtedly due to that influence. It is simply a survival of some of the old pronunciation. It may be accounted for in the same way in the case of Charleston, although I have not observed it in other words of the same character.

REV. JOHN S. MACINTOSH, D. D. (Philadelphia): Some years ago I was making a study of Chaucer and of the survival of Chaucerian English. I was down in the South of Scotland and having that prehensible turn of mind which one has when pursuing a particular line of investigation, my ear immediately caught actual words of strange sound and curious phrases. I said to myself these are survivals and having my clue, I worked it out in this way. Suppose we take a pure Chaucerian phrase and divide it say into eights, so that we may have three-fourths, one-half or one-fourth Chaucerian. Following this out, I found that in certain districts as in the Strathclyde, there are reproduced in a remarkable manner, the pronunciation, accents and idioms which are unquestionably a survival of Chaucerian English.

My friend has certainly struck one of the nails in this box on the

head, if in Western Pennsylvania, in the Scotch-Irish districts, you find these forms surviving. In certain of these districts in Pennsylvania old archaic forms survive that I have read in old documents in the North of Ireland.—We should catch these things for they are vanishing. We are coming into a terribly levelling period where we have got uniformity on the brain, on the tongue and everywhere. We must remember that there is a streak of Scotch-Irish in Charleston. I do not say how it got there. Many of the illustrations given can be paralleled by others from the North of Ireland, the South of Scotland and certain parts of England at the present time. These must be taken into consideration in discussing this subject.

REV. SAMUEL A. MARTIN (Lincoln University): I at one time spent a long period in the Scotch-Irish settlement in Washington county of this state. I was struck while listening to this paper with the remarkable parallelism which exists between the language of Charleston and that of Washington county. Three-fourths of the early settlers of Washington county are from the Strathclyde.

I have often amused myself when first meeting a person by trying to determine by his speech from what part of the country he came. I have more frequently made the mistake between Charleston and the western part of Pennsylvania, than between any other two parts of the country. These are simple facts which I give for what they are worth.

DR. HENRY A. TODD (Johns Hopkins University): It is very likely that every one could parallel the statements made in this paper; for many of these peculiarities are found in other parts of the country. It was, however, not the point of the paper to designate the peculiarities elsewhere.

The writer referred to a peculiar pronunciation of "very." As a matter of fact, GEO. AUGUSTUS SALA, who furnishes articles to the *Illustrated London News*, has called attention to the fact that it is almost an invariable peculiarity of Americans when abroad to call themselves "Amuricans." I think that the American, pure and undiluted, when left to his own devices is very apt to mispronounce certain of his vowels. This is the same peculiarity that has been referred to in connection with the word "very."

PROFESSOR A. MARSHALL ELLIOTT (Johns Hopkins University): There are a few points suggested to me by this paper. In the first place I desire to emphasize the great importance of such studies as this for our Association. I think that the object above all others of this Association should be to push forward into the work of our own country. I made this same remark last year and I think that it will bear repeating. The consideration of the influence of the different forms of foreign speech upon our English would be almost impossible to eliminate from this general subject. When PROFESSOR PRIMER states that he will take up the English only, I do not see how he can treat the English exclusively, because this is so thoroughly influenced by other languages. You have speech mixture from the very begin-

ning and in this connection we have to consider the French and the negro element. I know of no other country where the study of speech mixture could be so thoroughly carried out as in America. We have it on every hand. Around us in everything that we do pertaining to language we have this most important subject, psychological and linguistic, of speech mixture staring us in the face.

With reference to the Baltimore dialect, I remember shortly after my arrival in that city, a young lady said to me, "Pä" did so and so. I said "Is that the way you pronounce that word in Baltimore? I should say "Pä." "Oh! Pä is so vulgar!" she replied. There are certain peculiarities which belong to almost every town. I only mention certain ones that struck me forcibly in the city just mentioned. You never hear a Baltimorean say room; he says rōam (like *u* in pull) and not unfrequently gets down to rüm. He never pronounces an *r* before an *s*; for example, he never says Charles Street, but "Chäs street." He does not pronounce it as do the colored people who say "Chaws street." Before certain nasals, you never hear anything but the nasal sound. You never hear gentleman, but "gintlm'n."—Some of these things are quite striking and remind me of peculiarities I have noticed in England. If one is walking down the Strand on Sunday morning when the omnibuses are going out to Wimbledon Camp, he will hear called out "Wimbleton Cămp" but the same individual will say: "Are you going to the dănce" (broad *a*) not the dance? Again, another point is the pronunciation of "worn out," which is exactly like that of "war-n" with the exception of the length of the vowel sound: in the latter it is short; in the former, long. I am reminded of another interesting point in Baltimore's popular pronunciation: they say Lord and they say Gord, not God.

This subject it seems to me is an extremely interesting one for the members of this Association to turn their attention to at the present time.

PROFESSOR SAMUEL GARNER (Annapolis, Md.): I have one or two remarks to make. The first was suggested by my first visit to Louisville, Kentucky. You will find in various parts of the country a certain number of young ladies belonging to the most fashionable society who have a peculiar pronunciation, none of which I shall undertake to reproduce. I have no doubt that this affects fashionable circles and also the fashionable young men, generally such as are known as "dudes." This must have some weight in the general sum of influences which go to make up the dialect of any locality. I was especially struck with this in Kentucky. There was something so peculiar in the dialect of the best class of society in this city, that I determined to see whether or not it existed in other localities. I found that in Louisville this peculiarity was confined almost exclusively to the young ladies. I think that in all large cities you will find something of this sort. I merely throw out these remarks as a suggestion to those interested in the subject.

PROFESSOR C. SPRAGUE SMITH (Columbia College): This discussion suggests a new field and one which has been worked very little. I have an instructor in phonetics who has revealed certain secrets to me with reference to this subject. He produces forms of words without having heard them. This is a domain which may be worked with profit to determine whether everything is Germanic rather than English.

PROF. H. C. G. BRANDT (Hamilton College): It seems to me that here is a good field for the phonetic section of the Association. We should keep one point in mind throughout and that is when we study the dialect of any city, we should have a sound notation which will correctly represent the sounds. We should not do as SCHMELLER did when he wrote his 'Bayrische Mundarten.' In giving a certain word, he would state that the vowel has the same sound as is found in the Bavarian word, so-and-so, but he never told us what the sound was. No one knew the value of the sound in Bavarian. A sound notation is very important in order to make our work scientific and valuable.

THE CHAIRMAN, PROFESSOR GARNETT, (University of Virginia): I wish only to make one remark. I do not like PROFESSOR JOYNES to shift upon the inhabitants of Charleston what are in reality South Carolina provincialisms. "Pear" is pronounced "peer" and even "there" is pronounced "theer" in other parts of South Carolina than in Charleston.

PROFESSOR HENRY WOOD (Johns Hopkins University) then followed with a communication on

5. *The Brief or Pregnant Metaphor in the Minor Elizabethan Dramatists.**

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY,

BALTIMORE, June 14th, 1888.

To the Secretary of the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION:

DEAR PROFESSOR ELLIOTT,

The article on "Brief Metaphor in the Minor Elizabethan Dramatists" read by me at the last meeting of the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION, will not be ready for printing in time for publication in the PROCEEDINGS of the Association. Owing to unforeseen circumstances, I have not yet been able to subject it to the revision I considered necessary. For the information of those who may wish to see the printed article, I may add that it is my intention to offer it shortly for publication in the *American Journal of Philology*.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY WOOD.

Discussion. PROFESSOR J. M. HART (University of Cincinnati): I feel unable to discuss this paper. The subject is one to me very difficult, and I think that really questions of comparative literature

*As this paper is not published in the TRANSACTIONS, the Secretary desires to call attention to the letter from the author, as given above, in explanation of the matter.